

THE GATEWAY

volume XCIII number 28 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.gateway.ualberta.ca ♦ thursday, 15 january, 2004



TOUCHDOWNS FOR TUITION Mike Potter and Glynis Milne play football for tuition in Quad on Wednesday.

SHAWN BENBOW

MP Svend Robinson discusses NAFTA, same-sex marriage

CATLIN CRAWSHAW
Associate News Editor

pushing this NAFTA model throughout the entire hemisphere."

Long-time New Democrat MP Svend Robinson spoke to a crowd of U of A students Monday about a number of issues facing Canadians, including the policies of our new Prime Minister.

Robinson took the stage at the Dinwiddie Lounge as part of the Speak Out! speakers series. With an *Edmonton Journal* tucked under his arm, he began his talk with a look at the day's news. Reading aloud the headline "Martin to press Bush on issues," he proceeded to speak of Martin's involvement at the two-day Summit of the Americas held this week in Monterrey, Mexico.

"Martin isn't going to Mexico to press Bush on the issues," Robinson argued.

He critiqued Chrétien's successor for promoting the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and failing to promote progressive values.

"It's pretty appalling that Canada is still pushing this when we've seen the evidence already that NAFTA [the North American Free Trade Agreement] itself has been a huge failure in terms of democracy, in terms of the environment and in terms of human rights. And that's what the FTAA is all about—

"It's pretty appalling that Canada is still pushing [the FTAA] when we've seen the evidence already that NAFTA itself has been a huge failure ..."

SVEND ROBINSON,
NEW DEMOCRAT MP

Robinson asserted that NAFTA has resulted in an increase of corporate power and environmental degradation, and has threatened democracy in the West.

"Mexico knows that better than anyone else. A little town called Guadalupe in Mexico wanted to stop a toxic waste dump from going ahead in their community. They were concerned about the impact it might have on their kids. They said, 'we don't want this.' Their elected representatives at the local level in Mexico said, 'we don't want this,'" said Robinson.

PLEASE SEE ROBINSON ♦ PAGE 2

Muslim activist to speak on *The Trouble with Islam*

COSANNA PRESTON
Associate News Editor

Irshad Manji is on top of the world these days as she watches her ideas for liberal reform in Islam finally garner some limelight in Canada and abroad.

"Why it is that a little Ugandan girl who doesn't know English would call her go-cart Wayne is beyond me. I sometimes like to joke that this little incident foretold my future in Canada."

IRSHAD MANJI,
MUSLIM AUTHOR

In time with the launch of her new book, *The Trouble with Islam*, the strong-willed and confident author, TV producer and openly gay Muslim is coming to the U of A on 29 January for the Students' Union Revolutionary Speakers Series. Her lecture, "Not my Father's Islam," will discuss the struggles young Muslim

Muslims face and the tactics they use when reconciling Western liberal society with their traditionalist religion.

Born in Uganda, Manji and her family were expelled by the tyrannical government when she was four. They fled to Canada as refugees. Though she recalls little of her time in Uganda, she knows that her life was very insular and the patriarchal structure of Islam held fast. She remembers having a black servant who was treated more like a slave and who was beaten severely; any intervention by her mother resulted in her being beaten as well.

Manji also remembers having a go-cart she called Wayne with the number 99 painted on it. The oddity of this story is the go-cart was before the rise of Wayne Gretzky.

"Why it is that a little Ugandan girl who doesn't know English would call her go-cart Wayne is beyond me. I sometimes like to joke that this little incident foretold my future in Canada," laughed Manji.

Manji's lighthearted joking is secondary to her brightly inquisitive nature. Growing up in Canada she recalls being expelled from her Madrassa, the Islamic religious school, for questioning the text of the Quran.

PLEASE SEE MANJI ♦ PAGE 3

A rare conversation with the president

With retirement looming, President Rod Fraser talks to the Gateway

KRISTINE OWRAM
News Editor

That U of A President Rod Fraser is an extremely ambitious man becomes all the more apparent as he launches into a description of his plans for the future of the University for the large part of half an hour before a question is even asked.

Not that this eagerness should come as a surprise. After announcing the June 2005 date of his retirement in December, Fraser has 18 months to "wrap up his ten year tenure as president of a university that has accomplished much in that period but still, as always, has room for improvement."

With a long list of goals that includes a fundraising campaign with a soft target of \$310 million, more scholarships and bursaries, a focus on arts, improving government relations, building strategic community partnerships, increased internationalization and reinforcing what he calls "steeples of excellence" on campus, Fraser's "focus" for the next 18 months may not sound very focused at all, but one gets the impression that he'll find time to accomplish everything.

When Fraser stops talking about the future and looks back at the past, he notes that one of the greatest difficulties he has faced as President is

attempting to convince the provincial government for further investment in Alberta's postsecondary institutions.

"We have been working so hard to convince Albertans, the Alberta government, the civil service, and elected MLAs of the need for visionary reinvestment in Alberta's universities. I think we may be getting some suc-

cess, but it's not something that happens overnight," he says.

"So it's been challenging. And I say to each graduating student at convocation, 'I want you to be our ambassadors. Talk to your parents, talk to your neighbours, talk to your friends, talk to the general taxpayers of Alberta,' he says.

PLEASE SEE FRASER ♦ PAGE 2



SHAWN BENBOW

LEAVING BEHIND A LEGACY U of A President Rod Fraser.



10 Doesn't SUB look pretty these days? It's got a certain je ne sais-quoi that wasn't there before. No, it's not a new haircut; it's art! On the walls from the SU's private collection! Read!

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Outside

Thursday Sun and cloud, welcome to zombocom; High 4, Low 2
Friday Cloudy; this is zombocom; High 4, Low 10
Saturday Cloudy again, you can do anything at zombocom—anything at all; High 4, Low 9
Sunday Snow, the only limit is yourself; High 4, Low 8
Source: Environment Canada



From the archives

At this time, The Gateway was slapped with not one, but two lawsuits pertaining to a column and editorial printed the year before. In the first case, an article written by columnist Peter Birnie on products sold by the Brick Warehouse led to a legal suit against Birnie for defamation. In the second instance, former Students' Union general manager Harry Goldberg threatened legal action against Gateway Editor-in-Chief Don McIntosh for defamation of character. Goldberg demanded an apology and a retraction of statements made in an editorial entitled "Harry Goldliffers" in the article, McIntosh accused Goldberg of using his influence to control the official activities of the executive.

1978



12 How many gold medals in wrestling have you earned, Buster? Zeno? Canadian wrestler Daniel Iggall has one, and provides a Q&A found in today's Sports section.

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Comments, concerns or complaints about the Gateway's content or operations should be sent first to the Editor-in-Chief at the address above. If the Editor-in-Chief is unable to resolve a complaint, it may be taken to the Gateway Student Journalism Society's Board of Directors; beyond that, appeal is to the non-partisan Student Ombudsman. The chairs of the Board of Directors and the Ombudsman can be reached at the address above.

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colophon

The Gateway is created using Apple Macintosh computers, Hewlett-Packard ScanJet 3, and Linx PowerLock 10000 flatbed scanners, and a Nikon Super Coolpix 990 Digital ELPH camera. Adobe InDesign is used for layout. Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of Times, Garamond, and Helvetica. The Gateway's games of choice are Monopoly, Double Dutch, and The Legend of Zelda: The Wind Waker.

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Robinson questions Alliance reaction to same-sex marriage

ROBINSON • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"And yet, Metacard Corporation, a giant American corporation out of Delaware said, 'Tough luck. You may not want this, but we have our rights under NAFTA.'"

The legal suit which emerged favoured the corporation and forced the government of Mexico to pay the corporation \$30 million, according to Robinson.

Robinson cited next year's census, which will be conducted by American defense contractor Lockheed-Martin, as another example of NAFTA's pitfalls.

"They will be conducting our census; the most sensitive piece of confidential information will be going to this American defense contractor. When we raised the issue in the House of Commons, we were told that under NAFTA we had no choice," explained an angry Robinson to a crowd of hushed students.

He spoke at length about what he perceives as right-wing tendencies on Martin's part, arguing that the new leader is undoing beneficial measures taken by Chrétien in recent months.

"Whether it was on the invasion of Iraq, same-sex marriage, decriminalization of marijuana, signing the Kyoto

Accord, or political party financing, [Chrétien] wasn't looking too bad. But on each of these issues, Martin is waffling or betraying the commitments that had been made," he asserted.

"The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police unanimously supported it. The Attorney General and the country supported it ... and yet there wasn't a single member of the Canadian Alliance that voted in favour of that bill."

SVEND ROBINSON,
NEW DEMOCRAT MP

Robinson, who is openly gay, also discussed the issue of same-sex marriage at some length, mentioning the reaction of Canadian Alliance MPs to his private member's bill, which called for the criminalization of acts

of hatred and violence on the basis of sexual orientation.

"The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police unanimously supported it. The Attorney General and the country supported it ... and yet there wasn't a single member of the Canadian Alliance that voted in favour of that bill," Robinson said.

According to Robinson, some Canadians incorrectly perceive gay and lesbian marital rights as a threat to heterosexual unions.

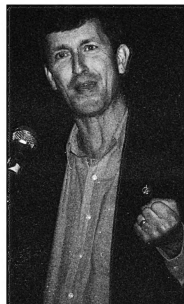
"I mean, is it such a great threat to the institution of marriage that me and my partner Max, who've been together now for ten years, should decide that we want to celebrate our relationship, our love for one another, our commitment to each other, through marriage? Is heterosexual marriage such a fragile institution that it's going to come crashing down like a house of cards if gay and lesbian couples marry? I don't think so. I know it's strong."

Robinson was also optimistic about how the NDP will fare in the next federal election, citing an increase in party membership in Alberta.

"The NDP is stronger than we've been for many, many years. In fact, in a poll that just came out, the big-

gest increase in support for New Democrats across the country was right here in Alberta. Our support doubled from 10 to 18 per cent," Robinson enthused.

"I am absolutely confident that in this election we are going to elect New Democrats from the province of Alberta once again."



Svend Robinson speaks on campus.

President Fraser discusses the ups and downs of his tenure

FRASER • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"In a basic sense you have MLAs responding to their constituents' needs. If they're talking about roads or crises of drought or BSE and not about universities, it's hard for the government to make different decisions."

He adds that while Alberta may have the best loan remission program in the country, that money might be better put to other uses.

"I guess the challenge is to see whether the money might be more useful directed as grants or bursaries to students in their first year as opposed to having a student go through the uncertainty of building up a debt and then applying to have that debt remitted," he explains.

Despite struggles with the government, however, Fraser looks back on many of the initiatives undertaken during his two terms as President as successful. To him, one of the most important things accomplished since 1995 was the faculty renewal program, which succeeded in having 35 per cent of the U of A's academic staff agree to retire by 2000.

"The result of that can be seen today,

in our classrooms," he says.

"Forty per cent of our faculty has been newly hired in the last eight years, which gives us a phenomenal force of bright young people who are just going gangbusters on teaching, on research, and on community service."

"Forty per cent of our faculty has been newly hired in the last eight years, which gives us a phenomenal force of bright young people who are just going gangbusters on teaching, on research, and on community service."

ROD FRASER
U OF A PRESIDENT

According to Fraser, this scheme gave us an edge on our peer institutions. "So whether it's Toronto or

Queen's or UBC or McGill or Western, they're just starting to do their faculty renewal while we've already got 40 per cent of that done. So I'd say that may well turn out to be the most important thing we've accomplished."

He adds that building a place in the community for the U of A has been another important accomplishment during his tenure as president. "I think we have positioned the University to do what Henry Marshall Tory, our first president, set out 96 years ago, and that was to serve the community, to be in and of the community, and to be involved in the community for the purpose of the uplifting of the whole people." He cites the development of a Community-University Partnership that, among many other things, encourages aboriginal youth to graduate high school and attend university, as his biggest success in this area.

However, Fraser's time at the University has not been without its criticism. Foremost in the minds of many students is the "Where in the World is Roderick D Fraser" campaign launched by last year's Students' Union, criticizing Fraser for spending

too much time off campus. The various Asian artifacts and paintings in his office attest to his many travels to that part of the world.

Fraser feels his time off campus is easily explainable. "When you're on campus talking to people, which I love to do, it's unlikely you're going to be influencing someone to increase the provincial government grant or increase their donations to the University or consider a donation if they've never done that. We developed our strongest ties in China, Japan, and Mexico, and we have some interesting pathways into Germany, Korea, the United States, and Scandinavia. So yes, that's been a major focus of mine, but it's also been a major, major success."

Fraser, who was born and educated in Alberta but launched his career at Queen's University in Ontario, was "extraordinarily excited" to return to Alberta in 1995. "From a very young age, the big blue prairie sky was a metaphor to me for the unbounded opportunity of people here, especially if they work together, to achieve whatever bold ambition they set out for themselves."

STREETERS

The annual tuition debate is back, but this time the Gateway asks you how it should end.

What type of battle would you choose to end the tuition debate and who would win?

Peter Strus
Open Studies IAustin Ritchie
Arts IJordan Abney
Phys Ed IIKelly Tackaberry
Science
Psychology IV

It would be a mud wrestling competition with Jell-o instead of mud, just go full-fledged. The first one to pin the other opponent would win. Carl Amrhein would win because he is the bigger power. He is taking on the underdog. People who want tuition to go down are the underdog. My guy is going to win cause he is the big Hercule.

A fruit-cocktail eating contest and Brechtel would win because he is named after the contest.

A pickpocket contest and Mr Amrhein would win, clearly because he is more skilled at taking every last penny out of students' pockets.

The most extreme elimination challenge. It's something that comes on Spike TV. It's originally a Japanese program and they just do crazy stunts where they go running through mud puddles trying to catch balls and they always end up making asses of themselves. It's really funny. I think the most flexible would win. I would have to ask them both about their flexibility.

Research could help disabled walk again

JAKE TROUGHTON
News Writer

A team of researchers at the U of A's Centre for Neuroscience are working on a way to help disabled patients regain muscle control.

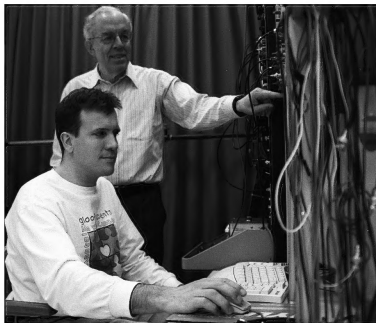
Doctors Doug Weber, Richard Stein and Arthur Prochazka are in the midst of developing a method to control the stimulation of muscles through a series of internal sensors. These sensors will gather information like position and speed of limbs based on nerve signals within the body, and then feed that information back to receptors that stimulate muscle movement through electrical impulses. The hope is that this research may one day lead to controlled movement of paralyzed limbs, including possibly allowing paraplegics to walk again.

While previous devices have relied on external sensors to calculate the same information, they lacked a proper feedback system that would allow finer muscle control. The doctors believe that going within the body will allow information regarding how much the muscles are getting stimulated to return to the brain, and consequently the brain can tell the muscles how much they should be stimulating.

"Our approach is to take advantage of the body's natural sensors," Weber explained. "There are lots of them, they're pretty reliable, and they give us much more information than any one external sensor could provide."

It has long been known that electricity can be used to stimulate muscle movement in a seemingly paralyzed limb, and there are various devices based on that principle. Prochazka demonstrated a new such device that he helped develop, a wristband with electrodes and an accompanying headband. The device uses tooth-clicks to trigger electric pulses that open the user's hand.

The device allows stroke patients, whose hands are normally clenched and can't be opened, to grab and



RESEARCH FOR THE DISABLED Dr Doug Weber and Dr Richard Stein. PHIL HEAD

move things. It could see widespread use; according to Prochazka, there are over three million people in North America suffering from the after-effects of stroke.

Using devices like this one, patients have been able to use their hands for many different tasks, even sailing.

"With a fairly simple maneuver you can suddenly convert a fairly useless hand into one that can do things," said Prochazka.

But the muscular stimulation is still imprecise.

"Controlling the movement to look natural and be stable has been a big issue," said Weber.

One way his team is looking to improve that control is by utilizing injectable stimulators about the size of a grain of rice. Devices can then stimulate only the muscles that are needed for the desired movement, which makes for much more natural movements, whereas external stimulation stimulates more than just the target muscles.

"If you have a simple [situation] ... you could probably do okay with an

external sensor," said Stein.

"[But] if you want to go to a more complex situation, people that have lost not only the ankle but the knee and the hip, then getting enough signals reliably without being terribly cumbersome is very difficult."

By recording signals directly from the nervous system, much more information can be gained from a much smaller area than using external sensors.

"Potentially it's a better approach because the information is almost unlimited," said Weber.

According to Stein, one of the major obstacles to using such technology in humans is instability of the electrodes. Because neurons are so small, a very slight movement of the electrodes will put them in contact with different neurons.

Stable electrodes would allow long-term recording of neurons without requiring frequent surgeries to adjust the implants. "What we'd like to have is electrodes that are stable for years," said Stein. "Then human application will become much more feasible."

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Sheer Alt

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Iron Horse

Manji to speak on homosexuality, religion

MANJI • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

However, she explains that though there were negative effects, her questions would not have existed had she not lived in an open society like Canada.

"I knew at a very young age that I could be engaged in my school, in wider society," she said.

"This was a society of really open-ended possibilities. It was up to me to decide what I wanted to do and how hard I would try to achieve it."

Manji has since been engaged in many ways. At the University of British Columbia, she received scholarships each year and became the first liberal arts major to win the award for top graduate. At the age of 23, she became the youngest member of an editorial board in North America working at the *Ottawa Citizen* as the national affairs editor.

TV was next for this motivated social justice activist. She hosted and produced a series of television shows beginning with *Public Interest*, which tackled innovative solutions to social injustices. Then, after writing her first book, Manji created, produced, and hosted *Queer Television* from 1998 until 2001. It was the first show on commercial airwaves to explore the lives of gays and lesbians.

Currently, Manji is the president of VERB, a TV channel explaining global issues to youth. She also hosts the show *Big Ideas* on TVOntario aimed at university students, and is a writer-in-residence at the University of Toronto.



FIGHTING FOR REFORM Author, TV producer, and gay Muslim Irshad Manji. GEOFF KNOTT / THE EXCALIBUR

While her career is taking off, Manji still faces ongoing challenges with her religion, her sexual orientation, and finding time for herself. For instance, mainstream Muslims around the world still maintain that Islam forbids homosexuality.

"When I am asked to reconcile Islam with homosexuality, I ask my detractors to reconcile something else. The Koran states that God deliberately created the breathtaking multiplicity of this world, that everything he has created is excellent and that nothing he has created is in vain, so how do my detractors reconcile those statements with their utter condemnation of homosexuality?" asked Manji.

"I am not saying that I am right, but I am asking my detractors to prove to me why they're right."

As for spare time, Manji has none. The time people spend meditating or reflecting, she spends answering e-mails.

Her book is set to be released in various countries around the world, and she hinted a documentary may be in the works. Manji also suggested she may be starting a foundation or joining a scholarly institute to continue work on the liberal reformation of Islam, but she isn't committing to anything.

"Frankly, every day I ask my God to give me the calm, the maturity, and the strength to see this through. I am receiving an enormous amount of support through my website from self-identified Muslims. I would like to believe that the voices of moderation are turning a corner."

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Aramark

NATIONAL NEWS
BRIEFS

Compiled by Kristine Owrarn

UVIC, SFU STUDENTS WITHHOLD TUITION FEES

BURNABY, BC (CUP)—Students at two of British Columbia's largest universities plan to withhold their fees in a protest they hope will ward off a third year of tuition hikes.

About 2000 students participated in a so-called tuition boycott at Simon Fraser University last semester. Now, hundreds of students at the University of Victoria have already pledged to postpone paying their fees this semester, according to that school's students' union.

Students who don't pay their fees by the end of January will be billed a two per cent interest charge every month until they pay their tuition. They also risk losing access to some university services.

Boycott participants are demanding that the federal and provincial governments increase funding to post-secondary education. They also want the province to begin reducing tuition fees.

UVic students saw their tuition rise by 69 per cent over the past two years.

After two years of 30 per cent fee hikes, students at SFU are bracing for a 20 to 35 per cent tuition increase this year.

Stephen Hui, *British Columbia Bureau*

OUC SEEKS TO BECOME FULL UNIVERSITY

VANCOUVER (CUP)—Calls are mounting in the Okanagan to create an independent university with full research and teaching capabilities in the region.

The move would bring federal research funding and autonomy to the Okanagan University College (OUC), as well as provide post-graduate programs for students so they wouldn't have to come to the west coast to complete a degree.

"The comprehensive university-college model was a valuable stage," wrote Kelowna resident Rob Holton in a letter to the *Kelowna Daily Courier*. "Now it is time for a real university, one that can take its place with the other respected universities in Canada."

The 7800-student OUC stretches across five campuses in five towns in BC's interior. It was granting degrees in conjunction with UBC and the University of Victoria until 1998, when it began granting its own university-college degrees independently. Growth of nearly 15 per cent and the allocation of Canada Research Chair funding last year prompted the OUC Board of Governors to argue the university-college could handle becoming a full university.

The possibility of pursuing a graduate degree at home is the main draw for OUC Student Union President Karina Frisque.

"Having a university means more programs, and we can stay here and do a Masters degree without moving away," she said. "We're in favour of being able to complete more of our education here, not having to move to Alberta or to the Coast."

By Jonathan Woodward, Ubysey

HARPER LAUNCHES LEADERSHIP CAMPAIGN

FREDERICTON (CUP)—Saying he wants to create a grassroots campaign from coast to coast, Stephen Harper dealt blow after blow to Prime Minister Paul Martin on the first stop of Harper's tour.

The former Alliance leader formally announced his candidacy Monday in Ottawa, and surprised many by starting his campaign in Fredericton on Tuesday.

Seeming more like a stand-up comic than a politician at times, Harper blasted Martin for waffling on policy decisions.

"This guy has 40 priorities. Paul Martin commits to a political position in the same way Britney Spears commits to a marriage," he despaired, drawing huge laughs from the predominantly older crowd.

Harper made little mention of post-secondary education in his speech, instead bashing the prime minister's wavering stance on gun control and the Kyoto Accord, as well as his alleged patronage.

"Paul Martin wants to be on every side of every issue," he said. "Our future is threatened by a Liberal government that has no principles."

Last night, Harper suggested post-secondary funding initiatives should be left to the provinces.

"I think the overarching need is to work with the provinces to ensure that there isn't this fiscal imbalance, so they're better able to handle the responsibilities," he said.

Sean Patrick Sullivan, *Atlantic Bureau*

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Info Serv

US Mars station would exclude everyone else

INITIALLY, BUSH'S ANNOUNCEMENT this week to dramatically increase space funding set my imagination in motion. What a wonderful thing, I mused, in light of environmental devastation, weapons of mass destruction and man's self-destructive tendencies in a general sense. What a reassuring back-up plan for a species bent on immediate gratification and cursed with chronic short-sightedness. Here we have a "solution" of sorts: when the end is nigh, we hop on a spaceship and set off for a colony on Mars or the moon. Whew. We nearly got vaporized by nuclear blasts, narrowly escaped skin cancer and starvation, but made it to space. Let Phase II of human history begin. Let's start anew.

Upon further contemplation, it was painfully clear that Bush's space plans are not the stuff of sci-fi daydreams; not at all. Coming from a hawkish leader like Bush, the space scheme has a dangerous military possibility that mustn't be overlooked. It's a lot like a nasty kid figuring out he can throw rocks at you from his tree house, instead of from his hiding spot in the bushes. From his height, he's got the advantage: it's hard to fight back when he's so high up. Try fighting back when the offending missiles are being launched from millions of miles above your head.

But the other problem here is that in the case that environmental problems, energy crises, military chaos or food shortages force us into space, the "us" will be the US, while people from other nations duck and cover under tables, awaiting certain doom. Or in the case that there are precious minerals to be found on Mars, or profitable scientific discoveries to emerge from the space projects, Americans will reap the rewards. The world's most powerful nation stands only to become greater and more powerful, providing that the expense doesn't crush the state's economy (and it won't), while the rest of us grow more vulnerable.

Clearly, this is no back-up plan for the rest of us. This is a fail-safe for Americans. Lest the USA entirely destroy the planet with its military interventions and environment- and sovereignty-crushing economic expansion, the Americans have a summer home on another planet to escape to. The rest of us are left inhaling mysterious yellow vapors and wading through dead three-eyed fish. In a more apocalyptic moment, I imagine us up to our necks in rotten dead-stuff, since the glaciers have melted to the point where BC is a bubbly memory, while silicone-filled Californians float to the top of the muck for only a few minutes before being beamed to space.

Nah, the space investment Bush is proposing stands only to benefit the US, and if it is viable and successful, it will only make the nasty kid in the tree house all the more nasty and mean. Now that he's got your lunch money, invaded your previously sequestered neighborhood and bruised your arm with not-so-good-natured buddy punches, he's got a big rock in his fancy new fortress, and he's aiming at your head.

I think we'd better start building a tree house for the rest of us.

CATILIN CRAWSHAW
Associate News Editor

Bounce back, Spalding

FAMOUS ACTOR/STORYTELLER SPALDING GREY is still missing from his home in Long Island, NY, and the three liners that the world's pool of creative geniuses may shrink some more.

The author of *Swimming to Cambodia* (which was turned into a monologue film directed by Johnathan Demme) has been missing since Saturday. After being talked out of suicide by a close friend aboard a Staten Island ferry in September, the possibility of another suicide attempt is being looked into by investigators who continue to comb the ferry route.

It's sad to think that a man who overcame a debilitating eye condition (told about in his other monologue film *Gray's Anatomy*), could possibly be taken down by the even more debilitating depression that he's suffered from since a 2001 car accident. Let's hope that Gray doesn't become this year's version of Elliot Smith.

JOEL CHURY
Sports Editor

LETTERS

Justice beats an
apology any day

I simply cannot fathom what prompted Heather Adler to write such a misguided editorial on war crimes compensation ("Nothing can replace loss from war," 13 January). Ms. Adler argues that the world would somehow be forward thinking if it left the past alone and forgot about crimes committed during "old wars." Furthermore, we should keep our Nazi loot in museums and knowingly withhold it from its rightful owners. Swiss banks that flat out stole money from persecuted Jewish clients should be left alone, and victims should all be given an apology.

Call me old fashioned, but justice for victims would seem a lot more appropriate than an apology. Even so, Ms. Adler tells us that there is no formal system of compensation for victims of war crimes. Wait a minute, the last time I checked there were countless formal systems of compensation in Europe called judicial systems, or courts.

In order for our world to move forward we must not forget the past and never brush justice aside. Where Ms. Adler may see a problem with justice, I certainly do not.

PERRY FELDMAN
Arts I

Moro doesn't know
what he's talking about

In regards to Ross Moro's article on last Saturday's Battle of the Bands ("Plant hosts nice guys, funksters and young girls at Battle of the Bands," 13 January), I wonder if he bothered to pay attention at the concert or even attend. Where does he get off saying the Raunchy Wahs were "not appreciated by the crowd," or that their elimination was "unsurprising"? I'm not sure where he was standing—perhaps the kitchen—but there were a good 40 people at the very least cheering for them. I've scoured my memory for those "dozen screaming blondes" he mentioned, but the best I can come up with are the two girls who had those DIY Raunchy Wahs T-shirts. Every single person I spoke to that night—and I did a fair bit of mingling—agreed that the Wahs played a fantastic set. Perhaps the reason so many people booed and "suspiciously left" after the Wahs were eliminated is because they thought the judging was a total joke.

I also find it a bit odd that he'd call Niccogey the most likable band on the bill, because I know everyone I talked to hated their dull, insipid "rock." It's not just edginess that Niccogey won't be winning any awards for. Frankly, I don't think they'd even had placed second if the Gateway hadn't legitimized them with a full-page spread compared to the tucked away token mentions given the other contestants last week.

Then again, perhaps I shouldn't try to address his points as they were presented, as everything certainly begins to make a bit more sense when we read that he found Mark Birtles Project "bizarre" and "unclas-

ON THE SLIPPERY SLOPES OF MOUNT TUITION



JAMES STORRIE
Film Studies II

Dentistry students punch
cancer in the mind

My name is Davin Wilcox, the Dental Students Association President. Every year on the first day of school, the newly elected DSA president is expected to have his head shaved by the first year class, as they come up and introduce themselves to their upperclassmen. This year, I decided to kill two birds with one head and raise money for cancer research as well, through the same program that the Medical Students Association is doing in conjunction with the Canadian Cancer Association. We raised over \$800 in one morning through the generosity of staff, students and my friends and family who contributed earlier (I had a real mullet to buck off, too. I'm talking long).

People donated five, ten, and 20 bucks and tossed it in my donation envelope. And I'm proud to say that every first year dentistry student (class of 2007) donated something before getting a swipe at my noggin. Thank goodness they're going to be dentists and not hair stylists—there were a few tender spots to the least.

So maybe the volume of cash we generated wasn't as substantial as medicine, but that doesn't take away from the staff and students' generosity, especially on short notice. For that they should be congratulated as well.

DAVIN WILCOX
DSA President

Gateway gives student a
musical orgasm

You might perhaps remember once hearing a great song, one you would give your very soul to recall the name of, to remember even a letter of the artist's name. The song that ends up vanishing in your subconscious mind amidst the overplayed radio lyrics of your time. You say to yourself as you lay in bed awake, "How I wish, just once, to again hear that delightful musical masterpiece?"

I don't really know. But, thanks to the Gateway's A&E section, I now am in the state of organic bliss which comes from finally finding what I have been searching for for years. For the song was called "Below the Sliding Doors" and the band, Blinker the Star, whose latest release was documented in 13 January's paper.

Thank you from the very bottom of my eternally grateful heart.

GRACE CHAPMAN
Arts II

Get it right, Gateway

In response to Heather Adler's

8 January opinion, "School Frustrations," it is my duty as a self-declared institutional watchdog to criticize her misguided vision. She says it is injustice propelling her through courses that are radically dissimilar in terms of her uniform expectations of evaluation, and that there ought to be a semblance of congruity between marking schemes among faculties.

Well, my dears, no matter how bright or dull a U of A student may be, it behooves us all to reflect on justice as the abiding principle of success in our educational endeavors. Maybe we should build schools that plan to extract the same amount of effort from each of us in all respects, but that's more idealistic than is usually thought communally beneficial.

Instead, and in the future, I ask that Gateway staff not confuse injustice with the variety of justices and manifest destiny in everything both hard and easy.

CARL SCHREIBERS
Arts V

Letters to the editor should be dropped off at room 3-04 of the Students' Union Building, or e-mailed to managing@gateway.ualberta.ca.

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the name, student identification number, program, and year of study of the author, to be considered for publication.

333

Exec Communications

SU dropped the ball on multi-year



ADAM
ROZENHART

"There's a pretty good chance that, regardless of what happens, undergraduates are looking at least two years of maximum tuition increases, unless Ralph Klein is, in fact, visited by the ghosts of tuition past, present and future in his travels. So why not roll the dice for a change?"

Well kids, it's another year, and, judging from the historical data at hand, it's going to be more of the same of old crap from the Board of Governors (BOG) in 2004. We, as undergrads, are being asked to swallow yet another maximum tuition increase; this means that, come fall, you're looking at paying an extra 5.3 per cent—approximately \$125 per full-time student per term—for the same quality of education.

I'm not surprised. After witnessing six years of the same old bullshit, tuition increases don't phase me any more than the United States' meaningless colour-coded terror alert warnings. There is one thing that shocks me more than anything else, however, and that's the image of our Students' Union as a complacent, actionless organization.

"Complacent and actionless!" the letters will no doubt begin, "what about all the events we held this year? What of the play we put on at the Legislature? What of the countless volunteers who helped us put up tables and posters?" What of them, indeed. All these tactics—ones similar to, though admittedly more watered down than, last year's SU executive—demonstrated two things: first,

that the Students' Union does have a great volunteer base who worked tirelessly to bring the tuition debate to the attention of Alberta's voters; second, these media campaigns accomplish absolutely nothing, as evidenced by the 5.3 per cent increase in tuition being sought by the BOG.

Sure, Mike Hudema's SU blazed some trail last year, even turned a few heads—and Mai Brechtel's SU tried some of the same tactics this year, attempting to build on the base established before. But Brechtel's SU failed to notice the most obvious flaw in Hudema's tactics: they didn't fucking work—tuition went up anyway.

The SU was presented, last semester, with some salvation in the form of something that hadn't been attempted in recent memory: U of A Provost and Vice-President (Academic) Carl Amrhein suggested approaching the provincial government as a united front. After all, the reason for these drastic tuition increases, both parties agreed, was a result of the severe lack of funding from Klein's Tories. But the SU said students couldn't swallow two years of maximum increases. Besides, the Administration should still be willing to work with the SU, even if students don't agree to two years of

maximum tuition increases.

Well, one year of maximum increases down, one more to go. The only remotely practical upshot of not allying itself with the Administration is that the SU didn't have to lose face to its student body by entering into an agreement that would see two consecutive maximum tuition increases. But this is, perhaps, my greatest problem with the SU's handling of the tuition issues: some bizarre fear of trying something new.

There's a pretty good chance that, regardless of what happens, undergraduates are looking at least two years of maximum tuition increases, unless Ralph Klein is, in fact, visited by the ghosts of tuition past, present and future in his travels. So why not roll the dice for a change? Why not try something radically different than the same old, bullshit media campaigns that have yielded nothing except a story or two in the *Edmonton Journal*? At least that way student leaders could go home at the end of the day and, instead of patting themselves on the back for doing the same thing as years past, they could say, "We tried something crazy and different this time around." Hell, it just might have worked.

But I guess now we'll never know.

Drug companies should have less say in our healthcare system



DAVID
BERRY

this kind of thinking—that is, profit over benefits for society—could be extended to other areas. I don't know about you, but I find it mildly chilling to think that companies might put off a drug that could cure any disease, whether it be as simple a common cold or as deadly as cancer.

And in case you think that drug companies may withhold birth control, but would surely never interfere with anything that could affect lives, think again. With AIDS tearing through Africa, the brand name drugs used to fend off the disease are virtually nowhere to be found—except, of course, in the hands of the most wealthy. Anytime someone tries to produce cheaper, generic versions of these medicines for the poorer masses, the large drug companies step in with their copyrights to prevent such a thing. And as important as recognizing the original creators of the drug is, it's fairly obvious that saving lives, whether a few thousand or a few mil-

lion, should take precedent.

This sort of thing obviously extends beyond mere pharmaceuticals. Private healthcare, which admittedly hasn't been talked about much lately in Alberta, would pose similar types of problems, as evidenced by the debacle in the United States. Companies concerned with profit will always make their decisions based on increasing that profit as much as they can, whether or not the best interests of the public are served. And while this isn't such a big deal if it's say, a publishing company, we should hope that those supposedly concerned with our health would be acting for the greater good.

So whether it's pharmaceuticals or healthcare, it would be in our interest to have these sorts of things funded, if not entirely controlled by the government, whether nationally or on a larger scale, such as the UN. As grand as the capitalist system is, our life expectancies shouldn't be decided by profit margins.

There is currently a method of birth control available that tests have shown to be 100 per cent effective. It involves a small injection into the vas deferens, which is capable of rendering a man sterile from anywhere between six and 15 years, depending on what the subject desires. Best of all, this procedure is entirely reversible and will cause no side effects of any sort.

The method, reported by *Alternet* and currently named Reversible Inhibition of Sperm Under Guidance or RISUG, is being developed in India, where it's expected to be made fully available in the next few years. North Americans, on the other hand, will probably never have access to this new method of birth control for one reason only: profit.

You see, the RISUG injection costs about \$500, and as mentioned before, can be effective for up to 15 years. If you compare that to the most popular method of contraception in North America today, the birth-control pill, which can cost anywhere from \$3000 to \$4000 every ten years, it's fairly obvious that RISUG is dirt cheap, a fact that is good for everyone except the drug companies. Drug companies will never develop and market RISUG, despite all the obvious benefits, because they'll never be able to make money on it.

Naturally, there seems to be a problem here. And while you could probably argue that birth control isn't the most crucial pharmaceutical in the world, it's not hard to see how

Dave Alexander's TOP TEN Reasons Bush wants mission to Mars

- 10 Will eventually need quiet retirement planet where everyone doesn't hate him.
- 9 Moon is made of cheese, ergo Mars must be made of something better, like chocolate bars or possibly even space fudge.
- 8 US is running out of places to occupy on earth.
- 7 Loves dogs, so any excuse to have another Rover is good.
- 6 Wants to be really, really thorough with the whole hunt for Bin Laden thing.
- 5 Curious to see what earth's surface will be like after a few decades of his environmental policies.
- 4 Who's gonna have the coolest pet rock? Muthafuckin' George, that's who.
- 3 Complicated plan to pay off national debt with frequent flyer miles.
- 2 Needs use for all his newly acquired Iraqi fuel.
- 1 Can't think of better way to compensate for small penis.

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- Application deadline: February 6th, 2004

Poll Captains (4 needed)

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- Supervise candidates, enforce election regulations, assist Deputy Returning Officers and poll clerks on voting days
- Wage: \$8 per hour
- Application deadline: January 23rd, 2004

Applications available at SU Info Booths in SU's, CAB and HUB, and at 2-980 SU's.

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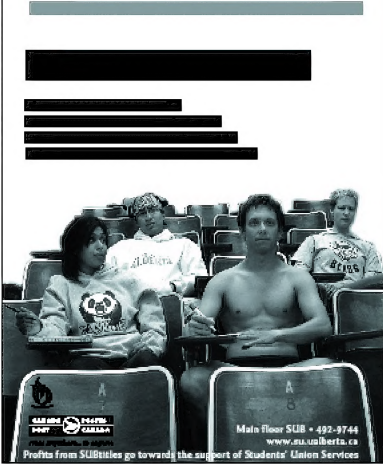


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Forget Christmas Break; the Christmas Bender rules



JOSH
KIENNER

Let's be perfectly honest with ourselves for a second—winter fucking sucks. Half the time it's so cold you have wear a scarf around your dink, and to complement this spirit-crushing weather, we get about 23 minutes of sunlight a day. Sometimes I wish I were a bear so I could just sleep through winter, or a goose so I could fly south, or even a dog so I could just lick my own balls.

That's at least what I thought in my ignorant formative years, prior to my initiation into pseudo-adulthood. And although I still possess an undying urge to lick my own balls, my opinion of winter has changed thanks to one glorious thing: Christmas Break (hereinafter referred to as the Christmas Bender), the greatest thing to happen to man since the Xbox.

What makes the Christmas Bender so special? First of all, there's a complete and utter lack of any employment-related commitments whatsoever. From the minute I dropped the pen on my last exam until the second I sat down in my desk for the first day of my new soul-draining co-op job, all I did was brush my teeth four times and scratch my ass twice. Not having to worry about studying or groom-

ing oneself lets one celebrate Jesus' birthday the way God intended: by systematically breaking every last rule in his holy book. Although premarital sex was conspicuously lacking in this year's edition of the Christmas Bender, I still managed to get twisted plenty, steal a present from *my brother and* murder Santa Claus.

I even coveted my neighbour's house, servants, ox and donkey—these are sins you just can't commit when you've got to worry about the 9-5 grind. This brings me to another reason for the Christmas Bender's glow: it's the longest reprieve from the aforementioned "grind" all year. I personally got a little less than three weeks off this year, and I know all you three-exam arts hippies got enough time off to grow a crop of barley. In this respect, the Christmas Bender puts lesser holidays like Reading Week to shame. Sadly, Reading Week's length is to the Christmas Bender's as my penis' is to a normal man's. In like myself, is so very, shamefully, inadequate. Thank god I got genital supplements in my stocking.

Genital supplements—and presents in general—are one more factor that makes the Christmas Bender the king of holidays. As if three weeks of uninterrupted sinning wasn't good enough, you get a big pile of gifts right in the middle of it. The only things most of us should be receiving over the Christmas Bender is a 30-day conditional sentence and a high colonic, but that doesn't stop old Père Noël from delivering the presents very near

year. And Saint Nick isn't the only one delivering presents over the Christmas Bender—the stork delivered one on 4 January, 1982. What was it? Josh R. Kjenner. I ask you, reader: how is it that just one holiday could possess so many miracles?

I'm not entirely sure, but I suspect that it has something to do with a group of lawless vagrants roaming the city's sewers. At any rate, the Christmas Bender is the best holiday ever, and nothing will ever make me think differently. Except being homeless—every day is a Christmas Bender when you're homeless.

THE BURLAP SACK

I'm issuing this sack beating upon city councillor Michael Phair, who's decided not to run for the mayor's seat in the next civic election.

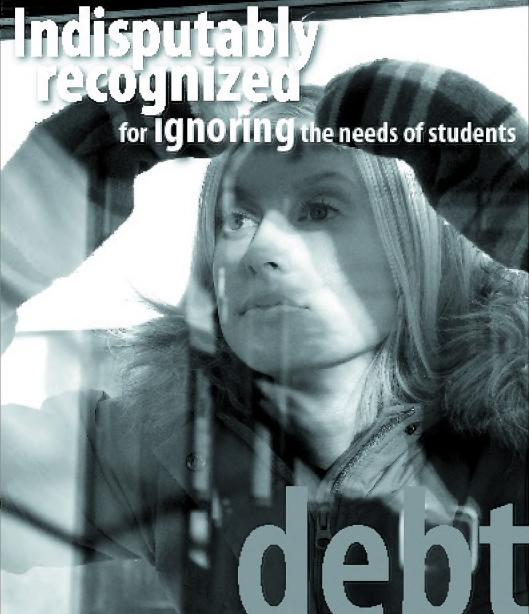
Phair claims he hasn't the resources—both cash and volunteers—to launch a successful campaign against incumbent Bill Smith.

You could still rally the troops, Mr Phair, and lead Edmonton out of the shadows of mediocrity. Until then, enjoy your time in the sack.

ADAM ROZENHART

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group is ridiculed in print. No sack beatings are actually administered.

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January 15th, 2004

4:30 pm @ Business/Arts Quad
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Budgets: \$1

Candlelight Vigil for Tuition:

6:30 pm – 7 am in SUB

All night students and community members alike are invited to join together in SUB to have a vigil for education, and await the Board decision the next morning at 8 am. We will have candles, talks, music and the special feature: Bowling for Columbine. Everyone is invited to bring his or her sleeping bag and stay over in SUB.



Good Canada-US relations are not always a positive



ROSS MOROZ

This week, Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin will be making his debut on the world stage at the Summit of the Americas in Monterrey, Mexico. From Martin's perspective, the main event at the summit has to be his first meeting with US President George W. Bush. This meeting is important not because of the interconnectedness of the two nations, but because of the perception—mostly within business circles and this country's corporate media—that Canada somehow benefits the more the Canadian prime minister kisses the American president's ass. I respectfully disagree.

I do not oppose congenial interaction between Canada and the United States per se; on the contrary, I believe that being on good terms with one's neighbour is definitely a good idea. Of course, my neighbour hasn't gone out of his way to piss off everyone else in the city by carpet-bombing a couple of houses in the poor part of town, all while being a real jerk to me because I didn't volunteer to help him. That said, even though my neighbour and

I wouldn't be the best of friends anymore, I'd probably still count on him to rescue me from burglars if I ever got broken into and to buy a bunch of stuff at my frequent garage sales, too. Heck, I might even spend the odd long weekend at his place; sure, he's a bastard, but the surfing is much better in his yard than it is in mine, and he still has two more Disney theme parks on his property than I do. I don't understand why the personal relationship between two politicians should have so much bearing on the day-to-day interaction of two nations.

Mulroney and Reagan got along swimmingly, and Canadians are left with the collective gang-rape that is NAFTA.

In fact, a positive relationship between the Prime Minister and the President has not always translated into good things for Canada. Mulroney and Reagan got along swimmingly, and Canadians are left with the collective gang-rape that is NAFTA. John Diefenbaker and Dwight D. Eisenhower were such good pals that Eisenhower was able to talk Diefenbaker into cancelling the Avro Arrow program. And

while Bill Clinton and Jean Chrétien were undeniably cozy, that coziness only helped to undermine Chrétien's relationship with Clinton's successor, a relationship that Paul Martin stupidly feels the need to do anything to improve, apparently.

It's not that Paul Martin is really all that bad—but he's no Pierre Trudeau. Sure, a lot of Albertans would disagree with me on this, but I don't really care about what a few drunk-driving, Ralph Klein-voting, Nickleback-listening high-school dropouts think. Richard Nixon hated Trudeau so much that Nixon repeatedly called him a socialist, a pot-smoker and an asshole. There aren't many better endorsements than "hated by Richard Nixon." Trudeau's belligerent attitude towards the US probably didn't do much for trade and commercial relations, but it was sure a shot in the arm for Canadian pride. Ditto Chrétien's opposition to the invasion of Iraq.

Even though deep down inside we know that we will always be subservient to and dependent on the United States, Canadians will never grow tired of being able to bask in momentary flashes of intellectual or moral superiority. Our most stupid, embarrassing, corrupt and incoherent leaders have all been eventually forgiven because they stuck up for Canada. So, Paul, maybe you should keep this in mind before get down on your knees and pucker up.

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Rejection tastes awful, but it works



EMILY SMIT

"So I came to the conclusion that, minus the 'straight' title, most bars are heterosexual, and despite their open-door policies, they are probably not the most welcoming venues for gay parties. Enter the formation of gay bars, and many years later, my bitter reception at one of them."

I was a victim of discrimination. It was not because I am a female, or because of my skin colour, and it wasn't even due to my age. No, I was discriminated against because I'm straight.

Standing outside a gay club downtown, I couldn't understand why the line was moving so slow. My friend and I had migrated our way up to the very front of the line of people, mostly draped over significant others of the same sex, and were patiently waiting in the bitter cold. Strangely, when it was our turn to enter, the line halted; we weren't getting in.

Sure, the bouncer didn't come right out and accuse us of being hetero, but as the minutes ticked into an hour, frustrated line-waiters approached our friendly bouncer and asked when they could go inside. His response? "If these girls let you in front of them."

I was offended, yes, but at the same time, this experience made me look at the situation from an entirely new perspective. Originally, I wondered what gave this leather-clad guy the right to refuse me entry to a public dance club? No one ever shuts the

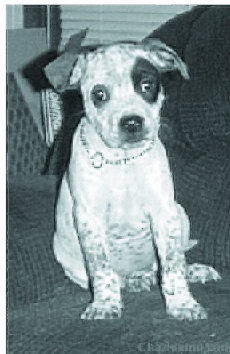
door to homosexuals in "normal" bars, right? Plus, there aren't even designated "straight" clubs. It seemed to me that while striving for equality, an oppressed minority once again went too far off the deep end.

But then I re-evaluated the scenario. How often are there gay couples in "normal" bars? How comfortable would a gay individual be in one of these clubs, surrounded by gyrating, boozed-up heterosexuals grinding mindlessly against members of the opposite sex? So I came to the conclusion that, minus the "straight" title, most bars are heterosexual, and despite their open-door policies, they are probably not the most welcoming venues for gay parties. Enter the formation of gay bars, and many years later, my bitter reception at one of them. Perhaps my good pal bouncer boy denied me entry because I chose to parade my heterosexuality around in his gay bar, when I technically have free reign at any other club.

So, was it worth the hour-and-a-half wait and awkwardness? Unfortunately for me and my female friend, the

experience was lacking. The music was fine, the atmosphere was electric, and the people were fun, but we couldn't shake a feeling of irrelevance. It was as though we were invisible, no interested dance partners, no flirty glances, not even any cheesy pick-up lines—absolutely nothing. I don't regularly go out to bars to pick up, but it's nice to know your presence is actually wanted, or that you have the potential to create some excitement and chemistry. There, I felt like a bump on a log—but even a log gets the occasional bumping action. But before you think the evening was totally without success, my friend did get hit on. Granted, it was by another woman, but a compliment's a compliment.

After about two hours, we decided to leave the topos boys dancing in cages to their own devices. As unwanted and ignored as I felt that night, I certainly learned a lot. Now, I can truthfully say I've been to a gay bar, hit on a cute guy who rolled his eyes at me, and been a victim of discrimination. It's incredible how much you can learn from a little rejection.



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THE GATEWAY

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words



Bringing it back: SU art collection returns to SUB

By 12:30pm, everything feels busy on the main floor of the Students' Union Building. The soft echo of the early morning traffic has built into a gurgle of white noise, a din of half-heard jokes and arguments. There are people busily walking, (the crunch of gravel underfoot), people studying, people eating, people talking.

And above it all, looking down from the walls with quiet gravity are enormous canvases full of vibrant, earthy colour and movement. Paintings owned by the Students' Union, which until the beginning of this semester, had not been seen in SUB for over 30 years.

The Students' Union has recently hung art from its own collection on the walls of SUB's main floor. With the exception of two pieces (the stained-glass windows found in SUB's meditation room and the multi-paneled painting in the Myer-Horowitz Theatre have been in those spots in SUB since the early 1970s), the SU's 30-piece art collection (now worth approximately \$12 700 according to SU President Mat Brechtel) has not been displayed in the Students' Union Building since 1973.

It's a 31-year absence that had Brechtel thinking that the concept of an SU-owned collection was improbable. "Last year I just thought it was an urban myth, I thought that the bowling alley in the bottom of SUB was an urban myth too, but that was true, as was the

curling rink in the bottom of SUB."

But the news of an SU-owned art collection was definitely happy news for Brechtel, and since mid-summer, the idea of bringing art back to SUB was percolating at the SU. With the assistance of the U of A's Museums and Collections Services, who have been in care of the collection since 1973, a third of the collection was brought back to SUB (the rest of the collection is either on display elsewhere on campus or being stored by Museums and Collections Services).

(which was once located roughly where the SUB food court is today), but devoted part of its budget to an art collection fund for purchasing works. Paintings were bought directly from local artists as well as galleries in Toronto and Montréal.

"A lot of the stuff we bought was representative of the time," notes Brechtel. "It was from new artists of the time who were doing very typical pieces of the early '60s. When you look at it you can tell it's from the '60s—a lot of browns and oranges."

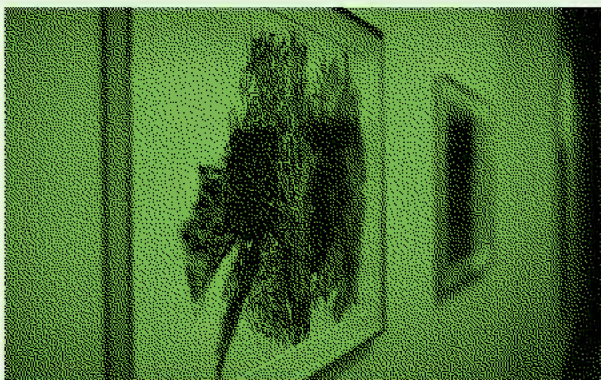
"A lot of the stuff we [the SU] bought was representative of the time ... it was from artists of the time who were doing very typical pieces of the early '60s."

MAT BRECHTEL, SU PRESIDENT

The collection was purchased between 1967 and 1968, say Jim Corrigan and Janine Andrews, Curator and Executive Director of the University of Alberta Art and Artifact Collection, respectively. During those years, the SU not only had its own art gallery in SUB

During the late 1960s, students could visit the SUB gallery to view the purchased collection. As well, note Andrews and Corrigan, the gallery often held exhibitions showcasing BFA and MFA students among other events.

The time and effort that the SU of the 1960s



made towards cultivating a place for the fine arts is a point of admiration for Brechtel, who feels the collection “speaks to the fact that our university used to be about *higher education* and the values associated with that.”

“For a long time it hasn’t been recognized that [the paintings in the collection] were student art. The students can be proud. We have an investment.”

MAT BRECHTEL, SU PRESIDENT

But as the 1970s began, the SU found itself without the means to continue its art collection fund, and by 1973, the paintings of the collection were taken from their home in SUB. According to Andrews and Corrigan, after the SU decided to close their gallery, with no storage space in SUB to be had, they were left with the task of deciding where to store their collection. In 1973, say Andrews and Corrigan, the then VP (Academic) moved that the SU’s art be taken by Museums and Collections services as a permanent loan.

Since then, as selections from the SU collection found spots around campus, the absence of the SU collection from SUB might possibly have been accounted to sheer lack of space. “For a period in the ‘80s, our building was really cluttered, and didn’t have a lot of wall space at all,” mentions Brechtel. “And in fact, even before the renovation here we didn’t have a lot of free wall space to use. The one free wall we used as a donor wall ... but other than that, we didn’t have space to play with.”

But the recent addition of the Relaxation Space to SUB created an opportunity for the SU to bring art back into SUB in an effort to make the space more inviting and comfortable for students. “I think a space like that,” muses Brechtel, “feels a little less comfortable than when we have something up on the walls.”

But Brechtel suggests the art collection means more than just having pretty pictures on display. The SU Art Collection, he suggests, is like many things on campus that students aren’t aware of. “It’s like a lot of things ... for example, not a lot of people realize that the Students’ Union built and maintains SUB; it’s just a pretty building used by everyone on campus. The art’s the same way. For a long time it hasn’t been recognized that [the paintings in the collection] were student art. The students can be proud. We have an investment.”

Words: Leah Collins
Photos: Shawn Benbow
and James Leung



THE PEP RALLY

Hockey

Ye Olde **Pandas** (12-0), who do most remain undefeated on the frozen fields of battle thus far, take on the University of Manitoba Bisons (4-8) in what promises to be a slaughter reminiscent of the Bison culls of yore, when our Native American brethren ran them off cliffs and made houses out of their hides and meals from their flesh.

While no actual skinning will be going on, you can still catch the Pandas win on Friday at 7pm or Saturday, again curiously at 7pm. Both games go at Clare Head-Smashed-In Drake Arena.

Volleyball

El numero uno-ranked **Bears** (8-2) set out to prove that the only things dinosaurs are good for are fossil fuels and theme parks that end in tragedy when they take on the University of Calgary (3-5) this weekend, whose team is incidentally named the **Dinos**. At any rate, Friday's game starts at 8pm, whilst Saturday's game is at the relatively earlier time of 6:30pm. Both games are in the Main Gym, which incidentally has never been nicknamed "Jurassic Park."

The number-two **Pandas** (9-1) are also out to show why dinosaurs are better extinct when they play those dastardly Calgarians this weekend. Their games, suspiciously, are Friday at 6:30pm and Saturday at 8pm. In case you've never read one of these before and are a little slow on the uptake, their games are also in the Main Gym.

Basketball

Our beloved **Pandas** (2-8) must drag themselves around the sorry province that is Manitoba this weekend, as they play not one, but two schools over the next two days. First they play the University of Winnipeg (7-3), who with the moniker of "the Wesmen" are in the running for dumbest team name I've ever heard, on Friday at 5:15pm, then paddle across Lake Winnipeg and play the University of Manitoba Bisons at 5:30pm Saturday.

Our equally loved **Bears** (7-3) are equally unlucky this weekend, as they're being subjected to the exact same shabby treatment. Once again they play the "Wesmen" Friday, except at 7:15pm, and the Manitoba Bisons Saturday, only at 7:15pm thereafter. Seriously though, what kind of name is "Wesmen"? If you named your kid that, he'd be beaten every day of his life, and he'd deserve it too... for having a parent like you.

Track and/or Field

When it comes to running, throwing, jumping and whatever else it is that's incorporated into track and field competitions, they're ain't nobody better than our **Bears** and/or **Pandas**. As a matter of fact, they're so confident in their abilities, they're inviting all the other schools down to the Buttermere this weekend for an ass-kicking fest known as the **Golden Bear Open**. The party is from 6-9pm Friday, 9am-6pm Saturday and 9am-4pm Sunday. And they'll be bringing the pain, bitch.

Commentamundo

Rob Stauffer isn't calling any games this weekend. Not that I'm saying anything, you know, I was just sort of pointing out that if you, know, happened to be turning on the radio in the hopes of hearing his dulcet tones, you'd be kinda disappointed and might start crying. Or maybe that's just me.

Also in sports news, the Calgary Flames are currently holding a mousche growing contest, proving conclusively that there is actually nothing to do in Calgary but watch things grow. Ha Ha! I write comedy good.

SEXY DAVE BERRY
Not Funny at all



FILE PHOTO: JEFFREY GREENAUM

WHY DID THIS GUY HAVE TO BE IN MY WEIGHT CLASS? Olympic gold medalist Daniel Igali and opponent at last weekend's Golden Bear Open.

Daniel Igali makes mat return in Edmonton

Gold medal olympian gives an exclusive Q&A on his recovery from injury, and the U of A team

JAKE TROUGHTON
Sports Writer

Reigning Olympic champion wrestler Daniel Igali returned from a rib injury sustained in December last Saturday to compete in the Golden Bear Open at the Buttermere, the first time he had wrestled at the U of A since 1997. The 29-year-old Nigerian-born Igali moved to Canada in 1994 and in 2000, he became the first Canadian wrestler to win Olympic gold. He currently wrestles with the Burnaby Mountain Wrestling Club at Simon Fraser University. After he handily won his weight class at the Open, the Gateway spoke to him about his return from injury, his prospects for repeating as Olympic champion, and his relationship with Alberta wrestling head coach Vang Ioannides.

Q: Why did you decide to wrestle in the Golden Bear Open?

Well, it's a good preparatory tournament. I think the last time I was here was 1997, and I've always had a fondness for it. Because of the schedules over the last few years, I haven't been able to make it, but I had an injury so I couldn't compete for awhile, and I thought this would be a good tournament to come back and get a few more wins to my fitness level. And I feel okay.

I'm on pace, so I'm happy about that.

We have the Olympic qualifiers three weeks from now. I wanted to come and get some matches, because I haven't wrestled since September. I felt this would be a good place to come and get some matches to be ready for the Olympic qualifiers.

Q: Do you expect to be ready to return to the Olympics and challenge for the gold again?

So far, from what I saw today I think I'll be ready to compete. The biggest thing with me is my health. If I'm healthy I should be able to qualify for the Olympics and do well there.

Q: Are you 100 per cent healthy now?

No, I'm probably at 75-80 per cent. The good thing is my fitness. I'm able to push six minutes [on the mat]. And if I can push six minutes at the pace I went at today [at the tournament], I think I'll do well internationally. That's my only worry. If I'm fit enough and I'm not hurt, I'm not worried about the international game.

Q: What do you know about the Alberta team?

I know [U of A wrestling coach] Vang [Ioannides] very well. Vang has been one of

those people who I respect as a coach and as a person. He was one of the coaches that went with me to the World Cup in 1999, and so I spent a few days with him. After the Olympics he invited me here and I came and did a clinic and stayed over for a couple of days. We also talk quite a bit on the phone, so I have a good sense of the kind of person he is. I know him to be a very upright person, someone who lives by his word.

He's a good coach, he knows how to coach an athlete. Coaching is not just how well you know technique or anything like that, it's also how he's able to interact with your athletes, and he's a very good facilitator in that way.

Q: What's your impression of the job he's done with the current Alberta team?

I think he's doing very well. Every tournament you go to, you see that some of them are coming up. Especially the women, I always see a couple of the women winning medals and wrestling impressively. It's good to see a coach who takes the time to try to groom younger wrestlers coming up, and I think he's doing a fabulous job. It's easier to work with materials that are already made, the elite athletes. But to be able to groom them and bring them up to national and international level is quite appreciable.

Opportunity for volleyball Pandas to move past Calgary

ANDREW TOUGAS
Sports Writer

After a weekend of volleyball that saw the Pandas defeat the best varsity team Japan had to offer, the Pandas volleyball squad is regrouping for their upcoming matches against a more familiar team from Calgary.

Head coach Laurie Eisler hopes her second-ranked Pandas can use their hard-fought 3-2 victory over the talented University of Tsukuba from Japan as an emotional boost for this weekend, when they play a home set versus the rival Calgary Dinos whose 10-2 record has them ranked first in the CIS.

"Because of their athleticism across the board, they hit the ball hard and high with some good angles," said Eisler of the Dinos squad. "We're going to have to do a good job blocking the net to at least slow it down."

The patience the Pandas displayed versus Tsukuba will come in handy this weekend. "Calgary is a simpler offense, but they have power," said Eisler. "They're going to earn some really nice points, but at the same time you have to stick with it over the long term and try and beat them over the entire two and half

hours—you're not going to beat them within an hour."

Eisler anticipates a Dinos attack anchored by right-side Joanna Niemczewska, who provides a strong right-side attack. As such, her practices this week focused on ensuring that Niemczewska's strengths don't completely exploit the Pandas. Part of this preparation involved having former Golden Bear Jordan Abney hit the ball in practice at or beyond the velocity Eisler anticipates from the powerful Calgary squad.

A positive that Eisler hopes to see carry over from the Japanese matches is the reckless abandon her team exhibited serving the ball. It was a level of aggression that Eisler hasn't seen this year and continuing to do so will effectively disrupt opposing offenses.

Since the Pandas have relied on so many different players to step up at various crunch times throughout this season, it will be interesting to see who steps up this weekend.

"It's hard to predict whose head will pop up within this system," said Eisler. "It really has been a different person virtually every match. Although I think Tawana Wardlaw is leading statistically, we have a lot of people contributing."

The Pandas bid to vault themselves into first

place begins Friday night at 6:30pm and continues Saturday night at 8pm following the Golden Bears match. All games are in the Main Gym.



FILE PHOTO: JAMES LUNG

BUMPI! Pandas poised to take over first place.

Hockey Pandas gear up for visiting Manitoba Bisons, two more wins

JAKE TROUGHTON
Sports Writer

The Pandas hockey team is expecting two physically tough games when the Manitoba Bisons come visiting this weekend, but their undefeated season is still unlikely to see its first blemish.

The weekend series marks the Pandas return to conference play after defeating the Japanese national team 2-0 in Spruce Grove on Tuesday. Head coach Howie Draper was thrilled by the chance to face a team that could challenge his Pandas (now 20-0-0 overall), particularly after last weekend's thrashings of the UBC Thunderbirds, in which his team out-shot the opponents by a combined count of 123-9.

"It was very high-tempo," Draper said of the exhibition match. "Japan's got incredibly fast skaters, they're quite skilled and you could tell that they've worked very hard on their system."

"It's hard for us to find competition that calibre through the course of the year, so it was great to have that opportunity."

Buelner Kristina Kotter also enjoyed the challenge. "It was a fun game," said Kotter. "I'd say it's probably the best competition we've had all year."

With the win, the Pandas feel ready to follow up on their dribblings of UBC. But they don't expect to roll over Manitoba quite so easily as they did the Thunderbirds.

"Manitoba has a bit more speed and a bit more skill than UBC," said Kotter. "They usually give us a good game."

Forward Adi VanderZalm agreed that the

Bisons will offer more of a challenge. "They use their size and their strength to defend against us," she said. "They're just physically exhausting."

While Draper expects that Manitoba will be both a more skilled and rougher opponent than his players are accustomed to, he is confident that they will rise to the occasion. "If we can fight through the hooking and the holding and some of the checking that I'm pretty sure will be going on and stick to our game plan, we should be fine."

Despite their recent dominating victories, Draper feels there are still areas his team needs to work on. "We're going to start working a little bit more on ensuring that when we have the puck in our own end, we're supporting quickly and we're getting the puck to our support so that we can effect a good breakout," he explained. "We've been struggling with that a little bit because we haven't had a lot of opportunities to play in our own zone this year."

The Bisons, who improved their conference record to 4-8-0 with a two-game sweep of the Saskatchewan Huskies last weekend, have won three of their last four conference games and four straight overall. They enter the weekend playing their best hockey of the season and looking to improve on their last meeting with the Pandas, a 4-1 loss.

"U of S is a pretty decent team," said Draper, "so this might be a little bit of a turnaround for the Bisons. I'm sure they're going to be coming into our building with a little more confidence." The games go Friday and Saturday nights at 7pm at Clare Drake Arena.



FILE PHOTO: LEANNE FONG

IDON'T GOT IT Bears power Ryan Schullis (4) and his team return to action this weekend.

Bears volleyball team back to full health for doubleheader against Calgary

MIKOLAJ MOSS
Sports Writer

Going into this weekend's matches against their University of Calgary counterparts, the Bears will try to erase the memory of last Saturday's loss at Trinity Western, in which they watched a 2-0 stranglehold in sets turn into a 3-2 defeat.

The tight 118-115 win by Western was uncharacteristic for the first-place Bears. Coach Terry Danyluk attributed the breakdown in the Saturday loss to missed opportunities to put the game away. "We just made errors that were at an important time," said Danyluk. "It was hard going from playing almost a perfect match on Friday to playing a pretty average match [the following night]."

Even with injuries to outside hitter Nicholas Cundy (finger) in the first match and middle Leo Carroll (sprained ankle) in the second, Danyluk remains confident in his lineup and through the adversity spoke highly of his players' performances, albeit with some room for improvement. Praised in particular was right-side Jeremy King.

"Towards the end of the match, King carried us with 27 kills, but again, at crucial times, we needed [the kills] to be a little better, and I think that's something that he can do."

Amassing 41 kills over the weekend, King was chosen as the University of Alberta's player of the week. "We played not even close to as well as we could last weekend," said King. "Coming off a disappointing loss like that, we want to come out and dominate against Calgary." The right-side is wary of any predictions about this weekend's visitors. "Calgary's a good team, so there's no guarantees," said King.

A tough match is expected, and the U of A Bears are confident going into battle with their rivals to the south. Coach Danyluk hopes they can get back to their A-game. "I think we played a very good match on Friday and we need to play that consistent all the time, and that's our objective against Calgary," said Danyluk. With no lineup changes planned, spectators can expect a healthy Bears arsenal against the Dinos. The clash ensues at 8pm Friday and 6:30pm Saturday in the Main Gym.



FILE PHOTO: NICK WEBER

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN Pandas forward Taryn Barry (10) and her team play at home this weekend.

Track and field team hosts Golden Bear Open New coach to make Butterdome debut with her team

ROSS PRISAKOWSKI
Sports Writer

The University of Alberta track and field team will head into this weekend's Golden Bear Open in the Butterdome with a new head coach at the helm.

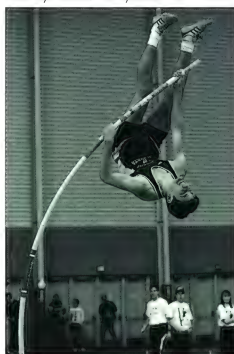
The track team's third coach in three years, former Canadian discus and shotput champion Georgette Reed is ready to lead her new team in the weekend's events, which will include sprints, distance running, jumping and throwing. "We don't do javelin indoors however," laughed Reed. "I think that would be really dangerous."

The team is coming off a successful meet in Saskatoon, where the men placed first and the women won every event with the exception of the dual meet with the University of Saskatchewan. "I think a lot of our athletes got an eye-opener in what they're really going to have to do to be competitive in Canada West," said Reed. "We're doing well, but we all know that we can do better."

Having gone through three coaching changes over a short period of time, the team looks poised to end the instability of the program with the addition of Reed. "We're really starting to become stable with our coaching staff and we've got a group of really enthusiastic coaches that are really looking forward to seeing not just what the program can do this year but three, four, five years down the road," said Reed. "I think the focus the last few years before I got here was very narrow.

It was all about the national championship for the current year, and I think what we have to look at is building the foundation that we can build future teams off of and go from there."

Students are encouraged to come out and show their support for the teams. Start times for track and field action are 6pm for Friday and a bright and early 9am on Saturday in the Butterdome.



FILE PHOTO: CIRCA MARCO, 1994

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Athletics and Rec

Eve 6 bares it all with new album

Eve 6

with Yellowcard and Jersey Red's
Monday, 19 January

MICHAEL LAROQUE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Rockstars often feel a little out of place spending the night in small suburban towns while on tour. That might explain why Eve 6 frontman Max Collins recently walked stark naked into a hotel lobby, asked an unsuspecting clerk for shaving cream, and inquired about why the lobby called the police on the band. As Eve 6 guitarist Jon Siebels tells it, "He asked for some shaving cream and, well, the shaving cream definitely wasn't covering up anything."

While Collins may have taken the name of Moon Township, Pennsylvania, where the band was staying during the incident, a touch too literally, Eve 6 wasn't making any mistakes when they sat down to record their latest album, *It's All In Your Head*. After a three-year hiatus from the spotlight, the band is proving that just like pants, following the conventions of pop music is strictly optional.

Barely in their mid-20s, the boys of Eve 6 made a name for themselves as a fixture in

modern rock after they signed a deal with RCA records while still in high school. Since then, the trio has put out two albums of catchy, self-styled pop-rock and toured extensively to support their platinum sales with big-name bands like Goldfinger and Bon Jovi.

Now, it has been almost three years to the day since their last album, but as Siebels explains from his Los Angeles home, the band used that time to write music and wait for inspiration to hit. "Sometimes you feel more inspired than others," he notes. "We were writing constantly in between albums, but it wasn't until the end of writing a couple of the key songs that the album came together. By the time we got into making this record, it felt like it was effortless, but leading up to that we were trying to figure out what we wanted to do for it, which made it harder to get this record done."

Despite the hardships they had making the new album, Siebels asserts that above everything, the Eve 6 crew felt quality was their number one priority. Still, he's a bit conflicted over the musical artistry his band pursues and made-to-order music that has become increasingly popular since they burst onto the scene.

"In one way, shows like *American Idol* make me nauseous, but in another way it was such a great idea because they reached a whole new



audience that watch TV and aren't necessarily music fans," he relates. "They're selling records to people who probably haven't bought records for ten years. It's marketing genius, but it's cheesy at the same time. That isn't the kind of thing we do, though."

Even now with three hugely successful records under their stylish, young belts, the

egos of Eve 6 still appear to be well grounded and focused on their *American Idol*-free future. "Every once in a while Max will be like 'Hey, check this out. I got a new song,' and it will be awesome," Siebels proudly boasts. "All writers get inspired at different times throughout their lives and hopefully for us it hasn't peaked."

SIEBELS SPEAKS

Name: Jonathan Lee Siebels

Age: 24

Birthday: 27 August, 1979

Birthplace: Hollywood, CA

Living: Los Angeles, CA

Lists to: Silver Smith, The Plores, Blink

182, Mountains of Wayne

Likes: Long walks on the beach

Dislikes: Short walks on the beach

Q: You got your record deal while juniors in high school. Did you get more girls after that?

A: I don't think anyone really knew what we were doing, but our girlfriends were pretty hot in high school!

Q: What is your favorite experience that being in a band has allowed you to have?

A: There is no way that I would have been able to travel like I have if I wasn't in a band; going to places like Japan and Europe has been a pretty

amazing experience. It's definitely something I probably wouldn't have done otherwise, especially at this age.

Q: Can you predict what songs are going to be hits?

A: You get that feeling and that's really why you put a single out, but you never know. Songs that we thought would be huge ended up not being that big and, other times, a hit song will just come out of nowhere.



Edmonton not cool enough for Jeff Hendrick

Local artist disses Klondike Days, Tom Cochrane fans, the Philosophers Kings, Power 92 and just about everything else in town

Jeff Hendrick

With *Red Shop Carpet* and *Samsara*
Saturday, 17 January
Powerplant

JEREMY SURRAGE
Arts & Entertainment Writer

With respect to the commercial music industry, Edmonton is not exactly what one might call a major power centre. This is not to suggest that decent music isn't being made in Alberta's capital; however, when Canadian artists dream of making it big, the City of Champions is not typically at the top of their relocation destination list.

And according to rising local R&B musician Jeff Hendrick, this unfortunate reality is intimately tied to the near unshakable grip held by "mullet" rock over commercial radio and concert promotion in Edmonton. "Now I'm not trying to label the town, but I think that we're kind of stuck in a bit of a circle," Hendrick laments. "I do think that the young people are really on top of some new stuff, but when are we going to see a *Redhead* here? When is *Moby* going to come to Edmonton?"

"It's been one of my biggest beefs that whoever is booking in this town needs to try and take a chance on some stuff. Until we do that, we're going to be stuck with Trooper at Klondike Days."

To hammer home his point, Hendrick recalls a show at which a scion of Canadian classic rock expressed an interest in joining him on stage. "Let me put it this way: [Edmonton] is the type of town where I played a function and Tom Cochrane wanted to sit in with my band," he explains.

"It's been one of my biggest beefs that whoever is booking in this town needs to try and take a chance on some stuff. Until we do that, we're going to be stuck with Trooper at Klondike Days."

JEFF HENDRICK

"The band wasn't sure about his material and he said 'oh, I better not play; I don't want to lose my market.' I kind of chuckled because I realized that sometimes Edmonton is the last stand for groups like Tom Cochrane and Colin James, and even a group like ... Big Wreck. I don't mean it as a dis, but I mean these bands are losing their following around the world, but in Edmonton they can still get 3000 people at Red's."

Since his stint as saxophonist for the now

defunct Latin-funk group Maracujah in the late '90s, Hendrick has been writing and performing his own brand of pop and neo-soul for audiences in Edmonton, Calgary, Toronto, New York, LA, Paris and London.

With a recent tour of Britain and some much-needed international radio exposure under his belt, Hendrick is banking his future on Europe, America and Japan. In the process, he hopes to distance himself from the cycle of mediocrity bred by the federal government's Canadian content regulations (CANCON).

"There are bands out there that exist and I'm not exactly sure how they're deserving of it: Jacksool is still around and so are the Philosophers Kings," observes an exasperated Hendrick. "I remember I opened for Philosophers Kings [in 1998] and they had three songs on Power 92 playing at the same time. I did my research—those songs were not charting or played anywhere else in the world."

"Now one person can say that's why we have [CANCON], but on the other hand ... I don't know. I want to be international," he adds. "I don't want to be just the band that goes from Vancouver to Newfoundland six times like the Watchmen, who have finally given it up because they said they can't take it."

The soul scene in the UK, according to an eager Hendrick, "is so great" and that's given him reason enough to relocate as soon as an opportunity arises. "They're really digging good music,



BITTER Jeff Hendrick has some serious beefs.

live instruments, talent, and they're really critical there. They know when something's bogus; they know when you've got skill and when you don't," he remarks.

Now only time will tell if Hendrick will be successful as he strives to escape our blue-collar town and bogus musical appetites in favour of European high-style.

New film chases mediocrity

Chasing Liberty

Starring Mandy Moore and Matthew Goode
Warner Brothers
www.chasingliberty.com
Now playing

RICK HUNTER
Arts & Entertainment Writer



KISSY KISSY Oh, look at us, we are so in love. Too bad this movie is terrible.

Following in the footsteps of Amanda Byrnes in *What a Girl Wants* and Hilary Duff in *The Lizzie McGuire Movie*, Mandy Moore assumes the role of torchbearer for all awkwardly romantic teenage girls everywhere in her new film *Chasing Liberty*.

Anna (Mandy Moore) is the young, repressed daughter of US President James Foster (Mark Harmon). Exhausted of the hoards of secret service agents and paparazzi that constantly surround her, Anna runs away with a handsome young man named Ben Calder (Matthew Goode). Anna gets her first real sense of freedom and true love as the duo go on all sorts of mundane but endearing adventures in Europe. Tragedy arises when Anna realizes that her newfound travel partner Ben is actually an undercover agent with explicit orders to keep her safe, a development that breaks her innocent little heart. But, who really cares? It's hard to sympathize with a drop-dead

gorgeous presidential daughter who feels stifled by popularity.

Two agents following the runaway, played by Annabella Sciorra and Jeremy Piven, also fall in love against the backdrop of enchanting European vistas in what can only be described as another classic example of how romantic comedies compensate for their lack of intelligent humour by simply throwing in some more sappy love sequences. In general the screenplay for *Chasing Liberty* is formulaic and poorly written; at the climactic moment when Ben professes his true feelings for Anna he says (in a thick British accent) "Anna, when I look at you, I come unbidden." Unbidden? Who says unbidden? Only mediocre actors in cliché romantic comedies, that's who.

Although Moore has a certain on-screen charm and works well with British actor Matthew Goode, this

film falls flat because none of the characters were written with reality in mind; there's all too perfect and designed not to offend anyone. Being a teenager in love—not to mention being daughter of the US president—can be a hellish business, but director Andy Cadiff continually shies away from dealing with any real issues and keeps it safe and fluffy. The supporting characters are as stereotypical and one-dimensional as the leads, and the audience won't find any directly needed comedic relief in the funny Italian, strange German bungee jumpers or stiff-backed secret service agents.

Though the story is unoriginal and tough to believe, everyone wants to fall in love—especially in Europe. No, actually just especially with Mandy Moore. That might be the only reason this film even managed to be produced, but it certainly isn't reason enough for anyone to go and see it.

Hollywood explodes with poor taste



CHRIS KRAUSE

A&E
Commentary

Like many people, I used the Christmas break to watch as many movies as possible in an attempt to decrease the size of my brain while increasing the size of my ass. As a result, I saw a lot of trailers.

As one particular movie, the trailers provided a veritable history lesson: I went from the 19th century with *The Last Samurai* to the 13th century BC with *Troy*. Then *Timeline* featured sexy cats traveling back to 14th century France, and some crap movie starring the Rock was set in the boring old 21st century (that means now). No matter what country or geographical location the movies depicted, however, all the trailers had one thing in common: explosions. Samurai, ancient Greeks and pieces of medieval castles were all going up in huge bursts of destruction, and it all seemed perfectly natural. Well, not quite.

Sure, exploding artillery shells existed at the end of the 19th century, so since *The Last Samurai* is about Western technology and customs marring the purity of traditional Japanese culture, that's not too much of a stretch. And okay, 14th century France knew about the existence of gunpowder, so although it wasn't readily available or widely used, maybe the future-dudes could get their hands on some and rig up a bomb with their modern knowledge. But *Troy* is set over 2000 years before the invention of gunpowder, so that one seems just plain impossible. Maybe *Zeus* did it.

We could pore over the minute details, but the issue leads to a broader question: Is the viewing audience so retarded that we won't pay attention unless something is exploding? Why must the excitement of a movie rely on special effects instead of content? This is, of course, a long-standing issue, but filmmakers seem to be more desperate than ever to sucker us into the theatres by a means necessary.

In a sense, this conundrum is parallel to the one faced by the music industry. Are CD sales down because of heartless pirates, or because today's pop music is utter garbage? Similarly, are movie audiences too simple-minded to pay attention to anything except the basest sensationalism, or is it that too many crappy movies must be crammed with artificial excitement to ratchet up ticket sales?

This tendency to play up the cheap thrills gives rise to a secondary tragedy: it means that a really beautiful movie



like *The Last Samurai* gets a violent, action-oriented trailer, giving the illusion that it's somehow similar to an assault like *Timeline*.

The past few years have seen an increase in choices for mass media—cable, satellite TV, internet radio, the list goes on—that is threatening to destroy the very concept of a mass audience. With this fragmentation of the mainstream, the film industry has to do something to ensure a profit, right? Here's a suggestion: don't keep inflating the budgets—slash them.

How many gazillion people need to go see *Waterworld* before it becomes profitable? Invest in quality actors, directors and screenplays instead of big names and expensive overhead; let's see some more *Lost in Translation* and *Mystic Rivers*, and fewer *Terminator 3*s. This maintains the profit margins, since only a tenth as many people need to see the movie for it to make money. It would increase the number of decent movies that come out in a given year, and it just might decrease the number of times I have to be bludgeoned by these cartoonishly over-the-top trailers. Because remember, Hollywood: there are good movies and there are bad movies, and no number of explosions can change one to the other.

We here at the Gateway strive to push the edge of the envelope when it comes to being stupid. From attempting to steal Christmas wreaths and kissing each other at staff parties, to losing our keys while dumpster diving for photo illustrations, if there is a way to be stupid, we will find it. If you fashion yourself to be one of the stupidest of students here on campus, or would like to learn how to lower your IQ just by being in our office, then drop by and volunteer!



THE GATEWAY
DUH.

Experience

SPANISH

at
Edmonton Hispanic Bilingual Association
Asociación Bilingüe Hispánica de Edmonton

DISTINCTIVE PROGRAMS

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- 3 Children/Youth levels
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- Fall, Winter and Spring terms
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- Free membership with registration
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- Annual Spring Latin Fiesta
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- Multicultural/political exchange service
- Volunteer opportunities

WINTER TERM

CLASSES:
ONE DAY WEEKLY FOR 10 WEEKS

Saturday Mornings
10 am to 12:30 pm

Wednesday Evenings
7 pm to 9:30 pm

Registration: January 21 and 24
Classes start: January 28 and 31

Strathcona Community School
8728 - 33 Avenue
ap@hispap.org/ehba
Where we register: 8728-33 Ave, room 101 (city and university street) or by mail: 10100 University Ave, room 101

GUARANTEE YOUR SPACE
on two REGISTRATION dates

Wednesday/Saturday
JANUARY 25: 7:30-9:00 pm, or
JANUARY 26: 10:00 am-12:30 pm
At later dates ask for your name to be added to the waiting list for possible openings.

MORE INFO:
call
472-0532
or visit
www.ehba.org

THE GATEWAY

INTERNET STUDY OF ALCOHOL AND AGGRESSION

Researchers at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in London, Ontario are conducting an internet study of Canadian university student drinking and aggression. The goal of this research is to learn more about factors that lead to aggression when alcohol is involved.

Six universities across Canada have been recruited for this study. A random sample of 1500 undergraduate students from the University of Alberta will receive an e-mail invitation to participate in this 30-minute study. Please watch for this e-mail invitation letter during the middle of January.

Participants of this study will be entered in a draw for one of two Canac Savings Bonds.



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For your chance to win a CD from Eve, Yellowcard or Jersey send an e-mail to the Gateway's A&E editor at entertainment@gateway.ca and answer the following question in 50 words or less: "What does rock 'n' roll mean to you." Only winners will be contacted.

FREE STUFF

SOCIAL INTERCOURSE

Our illustrious Arts and Entertainment writers go out and get the skinny on what happening over the weekend and into next week so you don't have to.

The Middle Drift
with Wil, The Middle Drift and Division & Wellesley
The Sidetrack Café
Saturday, 17 January



Quebec born Wil, who moved to Calgary in 1980, is one of those artists best enjoyed live. In fact, he describes his act as "something approximating a busker on speed," and since his gig is going down at the plush Sidetrack Café, you can enjoy all of the rocking without any of the hobos. This event is also a CD release party for The Middle Drift, whose motto "variety breeds innovation" is probably their justification for a hard rock/metal guitarist (Brian Duffy) teaming up with a folk singer (Jeff Stuart). In addition to all this strangeness and diversity, Division & Wellesley (think emo ballads) is the special guest, so really you get three for the price of one.

Theatre Sports
Varscona Theatre
Every Friday

I'm sure everyone has cherished memories of going to improv shows in junior high and blurt out obscenities whenever the participants asked for audience suggestions. Well, now you can relive all those juvenile moments all over again. Go check out the Varscona's theatre sports this Friday, take shelter in a back row seat and vent all the things that have been building up inside you during the week (only the politically correct ones, though of course).

The Pink Floyd Experience
Jubilee Auditorium
Friday, 16 January



Pink Floyd was undoubtedly one of the most influential rock bands of all time, and nearly 1,000,000 of their albums are still sold worldwide each year. If you're in a psychedelic mood and feel like "2700 watts of light, 20 tons of full quadraphonic sound, six amazing musicians in ONE EPIC CONCERT," the go check out this tribute/review show and have yourself a little feast for all senses.

Once Upon a Time in the Midlands
The Princess
Opens Friday, 16 January

Check out the latest film from UK's Shane Meadows, which opens this Friday at the historic Princess theatre. A homage to the Spaghetti Western genre, this one is a sure-bet for some fine entertainment.

CATRIN BERGHOFF
Arts & Entertainment Newbie

Fractal Pattern: music, protests and a hole in Mexico

Fractal Pattern
with this civil twilight and 5 o'clock Charlie
Thursday, 15 January
The Sidetrack

ASHLEY SCARLETT
Arts & Entertainment Writer

"A year and a half ago, on a fateful night, two guys from the Yukon, two guys from Edmonton and a girl from Montreal were abducted—quite possibly by aliens—and sent to live in a hole in Mexico," says Fractal Pattern guitarist Andriko Lozowy. "As the hole was inescapable and offered such close quarters, we, the 'abductees,' were forced to become friends and consequently had no choice but to form a band." Lozowy's unusual explanation for the beginnings of his band seems a little on the unrealistic side, but then again, Fractal Pattern isn't your usual rock act, even without the alien story embellishments.

Fractal Pattern initially emerged in the spring of 2000 when drummer Dallas Thompson and bassist Hank Vanderbyl both ended up in Edmonton (as opposed to the Yukon), and decided to form a two-piece "punk oriented" band. As the pair became more engaged in Edmonton's music scene, they found themselves drifting away from their original pop-punk sensibilities and becoming inspired by the new musical influences that the scene offered.

The two like-minded musicians decided to just make good music as a duo, and that approach lasted for a couple of years until the spring of 2003, when Vanderbyl and Thompson started to recruit other musicians to give the band a fuller, more varied sound. They added guitar players Andriko Lozowy and Nathan Sentenlund, and shortly thereafter lived in Jordan Faulds, a french horn player who was studying music in Montreal. "Fortunately for the band, Dallas happened to come across [Faulds] on the internet and they made such lovely music via electronic impulses that they thought it might be worthwhile for her to move to Edmonton to join the band. And, well, she did," Lozowy explains. The



most recent addition to the band—and the one which Thompson calls the most gratifying addition yet—is their full-length CD, *No Hope but Mt. Hope*, which will be in stores come February.

Today, the five-piece ensemble is a black sheep in the ever-growing Edmonton scene; in a world where the lyrics and vocalist are the idealized aspect of music, Fractal Pattern forgoes words and instead depends on the mathematical precision of their measures and the meanings that are portrayed through their notes alone. "By excluding vocals from the mix, we are able to eliminate a focal point for the listener. Furthermore, the lack of vocals removes any preconceived or necessary meaning from the song, which allows the listener to fully appreciate the actual music being played," reveals Vanderbyl. "We are simply making art for the sake of making art," adds Faulds. "There isn't really an ulterior motive."

Well, okay, there are a few ulterior motives; along with pushing their music, Fractal Pattern has also been known to use their talents to raise awareness for causes they find meaningful. "Although not forcefully or in a 'preachy' manner, we do give out information at our shows on such issues as veganism. There are pamphlets available at our merch stand for those who want to pick it up," says Faulds. "Fractal Pattern's socio-political agenda boils down to the concept of social role valorization," meaning that they try to help those who are and/or who feel marginalized.

Sure, they might not be your average five-piece rock act and, okay, the lack of a singer makes it a little tougher to hum along to their songs, but the Fractal Pattern boys never claimed to be conventional.



Travis
12 Memories
Sony
www.travisonline.com

PAUL VARGA
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Things haven't been so peachy keen for Travis since their 2001 album, *The Invisible Band*. That album's formulaic fluffiness dispelled any notions that Fran Healy and company were to become a friendlier Radiohead. Last summer, drummer Neil Primrose almost became a paraplegic after an ill-timed dive in a not-quite-deep-

enough French hotel swimming pool. To make matters worse, those lovably sensitive lads from Goldytopped Travis' place as the British emo-bands of choice. So what next? Apparently a mediocre new album.

12 Memories is the sound of a band with an identity crisis, attempting to pursue new sonic dimensions while making a fleeting attempt to retain the sound that made them famous.

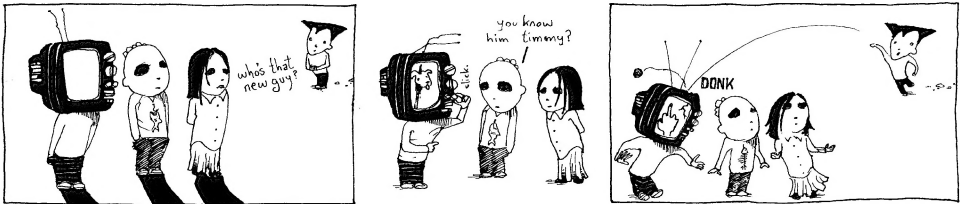
The album begins earnestly enough with the urgent sounds of "Quicksand" and the philosophical flow of "Re-Offender," in which Healy declares his dislike for both rockstars and domestic abusers. New-found political leanings in "Beautiful Occupation" and "Peace The Fuck Out" aren't angry enough to start a protest, but offer the band's typical charm.

It's the rest of the album that fails to capture *The Man Who's under* sincerity or the cheery sing-along sound of *The Invisible Band*. Overall the handful of decent songs aren't enough to satisfy a true Travis fan.

CARCINOMA by Lloyd Majeau



WHEN THE BOUGH BREAKS by Eric Uhlich



COMPUTER BLUES by Kevin Ng



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Microstore

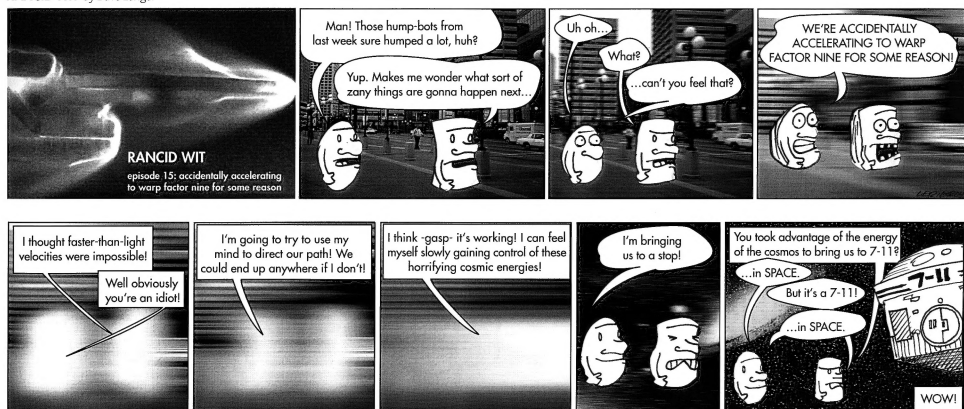
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exec assist

SPACE CAT by Fish Griwkowsky



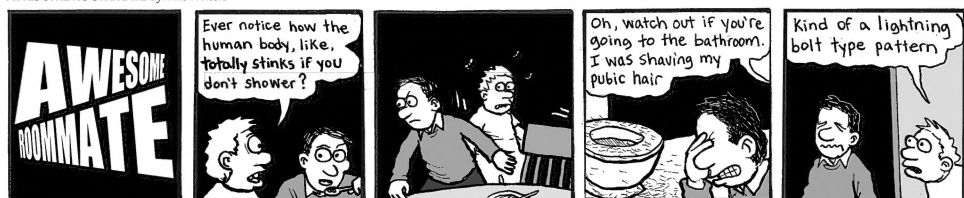
RANCID WIT by Dave Leiger



BLACKOUT by Chris Krause and Jen Koskela



AWESOME ROOMMATE by Mike Winters



"LIFE" GONE "SPOINK" by "Ryan" Lu'pul



938

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CASH!
AND
Trophies!!!